

## Hebrews

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Hebrews 5:1-10

Vss. 1-3

- Here now the author open up his central theme which he introduced at the end of Ch. 4, that is that Jesus is our perfect High Priest.
- In his opening here he lays out point 1, that as a priest was appointed on behalf of the people to represent them before God, this is who Jesus truly is for us. "No one come to the Father but through Me", Jesus said in John 14:6. A certain priest who was also a teacher once told his students that he always felt that his congregation was saying to him, "We rise early to work in the fields, the factories, the shops and markets, and we come home late to family, eat and go to bed. We look to you to go to God for us and come in on Sunday with a word from Him". So people have long looked to the priest to be the bridge between them and God.
- In Judaism's Temple worship there was always one particularly unique and important task the priest had to fulfill, that is to make sacrifices for our sins. Sin separates us from God and in ancient Judaism the sacrifice would restore that relationship. So point 1 was that the priest existed to make a way for the lost, sinful, and rejected sinner to return to God and this is who Jesus is for us.

Vss. 4-6

- The author's point 2 is that no one appoints themselves to be a priest. The appointment must come from God. If we are to say that Aaron, the brother of Moses, was the first priest, then we can plainly see that Aaron was set apart by God, not by people, and not by Aaron himself. The priesthood is not an office to be sought, but a divine calling. One does not choose the priesthood as a vocation, but one must admit it is a work that he is called and chosen by God to do.
- Jesus fulfills these requirements. The preacher quote Psalms 2:7 where God speaks to His Son. There were the same words God spoke at Jesus' baptism. He next quotes

Psalms 110:4 where God says His Son will be a “priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek”. We meet Melchizedek early, in Genesis 14:17-24. The Jewish records of the priesthood are extensive and thorough and there is no record of a Melchizedek. But Genesis 14:18 says that he was the King of Salem and that “he was a priest of the God Most High”. So he was appointed by God, not by any person. And in Genesis 14, Melchizedek is serving Abram. So the order of Melchizedek is a priesthood that is appointed by God alone, a servant priesthood, and one that will last forever.

Vss. 7-10

- Point 3 has to do with obedience and takes us back to Gethsemane. The preacher speaks of how Jesus prayed with loud crying and tears and that God heard Him. But simply because God hears it does not mean that we get the answer we desire, even if we are Jesus. The Son of God cried out to the Father to “let this cup pass” so that He would not have to endure all that the cross held for Him.
- So Jesus “learned obedience from the things which He suffered”. The Greeks never separated learning from suffering. We live in such a pain free culture that often when we are embittered when suffering comes to us and the bitterness keeps us from hearing God’s voice through the pain and we fail to see any redemption or value or learn anything.
- Because Jesus was fully obedient to the Father, even to the point of His death on the cross. He completed His mission, “It is finished”, and entered into Heaven perfect, without sin. Because of this He alone is able to be the source of eternal salvation. He alone is able to be the perfect High Priest. He can stand with us before the Throne of Judgment and declare what it means to be human and offer us the grace that only He can so that we are covered by His perfect sacrifice and be forgiven and our relationship with the Father restored.